

## **Melanie's Law Enters Third Year of Targeting Repeat OUI Offenders**

On October 28, 2005, Beacon Hill passed legislation that created tougher penalties and sanctions against Operating Under the Influence (OUI) offenders in Massachusetts. Melanie's Law also required the RMV to create a state-run ignition interlock program (IID) that repeat offenders must enroll in before they can apply for a hardship license or get their license re-instated.

Currently, more than 2,800 repeat offenders are using the devices which do not allow a vehicle to start if the IID detects more than .02 alcohol in their system. The Drunk Driving Advisory Committee that the Registrar formed to review the programs regulations will study the effectiveness of the IID program once the first enrollees successfully graduate after January 2008.

Interim reports show that Melanie's Law has led to more arrests of suspected repeat offenders and fewer of the accused refusing to take a chemical breath test.

## Melanie's Law Arrests and Chemical Test Refusals

	10/28/04 to 10/28/05 Before Melanie's Law	10/28/05 to 10/28/06 1st year of Melanie's Law	10/28/06 to 10/28/07 2nd year of Melanie's Law
<b>Total OUI Arrests</b>	13,335	14,068	15,591
<b>Chemical Test Refusal</b> Percent of total OUI arrests	53%	46%	44%
<b>Arrests of 3 or more Prior OUI Convictions</b> Percent of total OUI arrests	4.50%	3.70%	2.90%